

ROAD BONDS BIG PROBLEM FOR SESSION

JEFFERSON CITY, Dec. 14.—One of the biggest problems before the new Missouri legislature, which convenes January 5, is the framing of a legislative program for the expenditure of the 60 million of road bonds.

Forseeing an almost inevitable clash between the city members of the legislature and the country members over the distribution of the road money among the smaller counties, the new administration forces have been slow in deciding on a program. Little has been done as yet toward bringing the opposing interests together.

The trouble with the former road programs in Missouri has been that an attempt has been made to scatter the road funds through the 114 counties, instead of using the money to build trunk roads. One result has been that in the last four years only a scattered few miles of hard surfaced roads have been constructed.

One of the first moves in the state to obtain a line on public sentiment is the calling of a meeting for next Saturday at Springfield. Business men and legislators representing practically all the towns in thirty or forty Southwest Missouri counties are expected at that meeting to begin a fight to obtain a part of the 60-million bond fund for the Ozark country.

The bond amendment requires that the motor car license tax hereafter must be applied to the payment of the principal of the bonds. The interest must be obtained from some other source. Also, no provision is made for road maintenance. All the bond money must be used to build roads.

With the diverting of the motor car license money to the payment of the road bonds, the biennial amount of \$400,000 seat roads no longer will be available. State aid for the road building also will terminate, unless the legislature creates a new fund for that purpose.

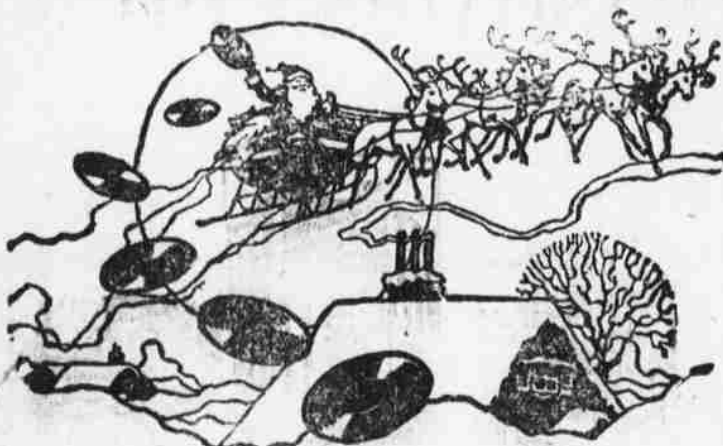
There are 107,000 miles of public highways in the state. The present law as established a state road system of six thousand miles, giving two roads in each county. If roads could be built for \$10,000 a mile the entire 60 million dollars of bonds would be used to construct the six thousand miles. But in many sections of the state hard surface roads cost several times that amount.

The suggestion was made that the new road program be started by the building of a demonstration road, running from Kansas City to St. Louis, or between two other large cities in the state. It was pointed out that if the new program began with the distribution of the bond money throughout every county in the state, according to road mileage, area, or number of motor cars, the huge fund would be expended in a few years, and there would be no continuous system of state roads. The issue before the new legislature is whether the bond money shall be expended for trunk roads or for local roads within the counties.

AS a further indication of an open winter other than the present weather, is the report of Mexico citizens who says the fishing worms are still close to the surface.

JUST nine shopping days intervene between now and Christmas. If you haven't completed your shopping do so at once.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE LEDGER.



Have Santa Bring Columbia Records

Enjoy them? Of course you will; especially if Santa brings them. The latest songs, the season's melodious hits, the dance tunes that carry the Merry Christmas note, old-time ballads, all of them on Columbia Records—see to it that Santa brings them enclosed in Columbia Christmas envelopes.

If you will call, we'll help you write the order to Santa Claus, telling him just what records you ought to have for a merry, merry musical Christmas.



Mexico Music Co.

Bunch & Boillot, Prop.

Feeble-Minded Make Paupers And Criminals

Feeble-mindedness is one of the greatest single factors in hereditary pauperism, juvenile crime and vice, adult crime and vagrancy, and the spread of venereal diseases, according to surveys made by the National Hygiene Committee, carried on in this state under the direction of Dr. Thomas H. Haines, assisted by a committee including Dr. Charles A. Elliott and Prof. A. F. Kuhlman of the sociology department of the University.

It was found that of the inmates of the state prisons 27 to 30 per cent were feeble-minded and that of the inmates of the training schools, reformatories, work houses and home of refuge 30 per cent were feeble-minded.

A survey of the institutions of the state has produced some interesting data. The industrial homes at Chillicothe and Tipton and the reformatory at Booneville were the first studied. Among the 235 white girls at Chillicothe, 19 were found to be feeble-minded and 17 of border-line intelligence. Of the 87 negro girls at Tipton, 9 were feeble-minded and 13 of border-line intelligence. Of the 409 white boys at Booneville, 38 were feeble minded and 31 were of border-line intelligence. Of the 133 negro boys at Booneville, 22 were feeble-minded and 13 were of border-line intelligence. The feeble-mindedness among the white boys and girls runs about 10 per cent of the total number. Among the negroes it is about 15 per cent. The population of the Bellefontaine Farm was investigated and 7 white and 3 colored boys were classed as feeble-minded and 21 others as of border-line intelligence. The St. Louis workhouse gave the following data: 82 feeble-minded and 2 of border-line intelligence out of about 145.

A study of the county almshouses of the state shows 442 feeble-minded in mates who are judged to be congenital defectives. Many of these are the parents and grandparents of other feeble minded persons. In one of the southeastern counties there are eleven inmates in one almshouse seven of whom are feeble-minded. Five of these belong to one family. Similar instances of inherent feeble-mindedness are to be found in every part of the state.

The survey has gone still farther and has aimed at the bottom of the evil. Proper training during youth and childhood will correct the tendencies of many feeble-minded delinquents with whom our correctional institutions are now dealing. The ordinary school curriculum has been found to be ill adapted to the training of these minds. It is believed that the proper administration of the public schools in Missouri will have much to do with diminishing the work of the penitentiary.

GOVERNOR-elect Hyde should be given every encouragement possible in his plan to establish a cabinet form of government for Missouri with a view of increasing the efficiency of the state government. The plan is a most commendable one and we trust he will be allowed to go ahead with his plans and that they will not be blocked by political influences. Governor Hyde will find all progressive Missourians behind him in his plan regardless of political affiliations.

SOCRATES Sowers says about the only thing he knows of that will keep the women from wearing short skirts is a wooden leg.

John Dearing, who is attending school in St. Louis, is home for the Christmas holidays.

Dr. Kelly R. Bragg Accepts Position In Life Insurance

Dr. K. R. Bragg has accepted the position as district manager of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., and will have his office in the Bragg building. Regarding the change Dr. Bragg stated: "Having decided to make this change I wish to thank the people of Mexico and the surrounding country for their splendid support during my 20 years of practicing dentistry in Mexico."

"This change makes it possible for me to be out among my friends, an opportunity for which I have always wished. However, I am glad that my son, Dr. Minter K. Bragg, who has practiced with me for several years, will continue the practice of dentistry in the same office. My patients may rest assured that he will serve them equally as well as I have endeavored to do in the past. My insurance office will be in the adjoining rooms, and I will appreciate any insurance business entrusted to me."

Dr. Minter K. Bragg, following his graduation from the school of Dentistry at Northwestern University, Chicago, taught in the school and made a study of X-Ray dentistry. He is a most efficient dentist and has a modern X-Ray equipment in his office to assist in his work.

LEDGER CLASSIFIED ADS PAY

Methodist Missionary Society. The following were elected officers for the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church for the coming year. President, Mrs. J. W. Howell; vice-president, Miss Emma McPheeters; secretary, Mrs. Charles Campbell; conference treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Holmes; local treasurer, Mrs. E. F. Elliott; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. W. Street; superintendent of supplies, Mrs. S. H. Richards; superintendent of study, Mrs. W. D. Adams; superintendent of social service, Mrs.

F. L. Crosby; chairman of local work, Mrs. J. G. Lakeman; agent of missionary voice, Mrs. E. C. Carter; superintendent of Y. M. U., Mrs. Thurman Stallings; superintendent of baby roll, Mrs. E. Y. Burton and house-keeper, Mrs. F. A. Edwards.

On the program committee are the following women: Chairman, Mrs. E. H. Tinscher; and Miss Emma McPheeters, Mrs. A. B. Smith, Mrs. W. P. Wynne and Mrs. Thurman Stallings.

LEDGER CLASSIFIED ADS PAY

OUR SALESMAN'S
SAMPLE LINE OF

Greek Letter Fraternity and Secret Society Emblems

is now at our store and we invite customers to inspect them. The line includes Greek Letter emblems and novelties and a very attractive showing of Shrine, Knight's Templar, Masonic, Elks, I. O. O. F., K. of P., K. of C., M. W. A. and other Secret Society Emblems.

SPECIAL DESIGNS MADE TO ORDER

Black onyx rings with the lodge emblem and number or owners initials gold enameled make a gift that pleases a man.

STEP IN AND LOOK AROUND

WORRELL, The Jeweler

Do Your Xmas Buying at Reduced Prices

20c Toy Brooms, reduced to 15
55c Imported Decorated Salad Bowls. Reduced to 50
\$5.00 Axminster Rugs, size 27x54 Floral and Oriental Patterns. Reduced to \$3.98
Men's and Boy's \$1.50 and \$2.00 Sweaters. Reduced to95
\$1.00 Fancy Turkish Bath Towel. Reduced to79
\$2.50 Men's Flannelette Night Shirts. Reduced to \$1.98
80c Fancy Turkish Bath Towels. Reduced to69
Boy's Gunmetal Shoes, \$4.50 and \$5.00 values. Reduced to, pair \$2.98
50c Children Ribbed Hose, colors Black, Brown, White, Reduced to, pair39
75c Ladies' Silk Hose, all colors. Reduced to, pair49
\$1.50 Ladies' Flannelette Gowns. Reduced to99
\$2.50 Child's Black Boards. Reduced to \$1.98
\$2.00 Kiddie Cars. Reduced to \$1.49
\$1.00 Men's Leather Mittens, lined. Reduced to, pair69
\$1.00 Cut Glass Sugar and Creamer. Reduced to75
\$3.00 Men's Dress Shirts. Reduced to \$1.98
75c Fancy Turkish Bath Towels. Reduced to59
\$2.50 Ladies' Felt House Slippers. Reduced to, pair \$1.98
\$1.00 Ladies' Silk Hose, all colors. Reduced to, pair69
75c Large Size Kewpie Dolls. Reduced to49

Ragsdale's Cash Store

Xmas Shoppers will profit
greatly by Our Sale
Opportunity
In Every
Department of Our
Store



Copyright 1920 Hart Schaffner & Marx

The same Big Cut prices we
have been running on
Our Regular Stocks
are still in effect,
Every O'Coat, Mackinaw,
Suit, Hat, Shoe, or
piece of furnishing goods,
is yours at fractions of
former prices

A Special Lucky Purchase of 175 HART SCHAFFNER & MARX AND HARVARD SUPER-FINE SUITS

**\$80, \$75, \$70, \$65 Values \$
ADDED TO OUR SALE;
Choose As Long As They Last**

AT 43.50

The biggest value proposition it has ever been our good fortune to handle, qualities considered, its the biggest cut of them all.

In this assortment are pure worsteds, serges, unfinished worsteds, flannels, novelty cloths; in doubly breasted and single breast-

ed models—suitable for men and young men.

The selection contains many duplications of clothes and patterns shown by us early in the season at \$80, \$75, \$70 and \$65; which will impress you with the genuineness of these tremendous savings.

Phillips